

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 7, 2005. Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 10 and 19 being in independent form. At the onset, the Applicant would like to note that Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended to clarify the language in the claims. Specifically, Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to recite that either a contract unit (Claim 1) or judging unit (Claim 19) automatically directs the network management system to reroute the user to an ISP LAN by issuing commands to an edge router that limit user access to said ISP LAN only, such that a reservation request can be made by the user via a web server on said ISP LAN.

Additionally, Claim 10 has been amended to recite a step of rerouting the user by issuing commands to an edge router that limit user access to said ISP LAN only, such that a reservation request can be made by the user via a web server on said ISP LAN. No new matter has been added by the above-identified amendment. For example, support therefor can be found at pages 26-29 and Figures 2 and 4.

Applicant submits that amended Claims 1, 10 and 19 are patentably distinct from Malik and March, previously cited.

Specifically, the hypothetically combined references fail to teach the limitation of the contract unit automatically directing said network management system to ***reroute the user to an ISP LAN by issuing commands to an edge router that limit user access to said ISP LAN only, such that a reservation request can be made by the user via a web server on said ISP LAN,*** as recited in Claim 1, and similarly recited in Claims 10 and 19.

Applicant submits that the hypothetically combined March-Malik system does not teach re-routing the user to an ISP LAN using an edge router *such that a reservation request can be made by the user*. Rather, it appears that the March reference teaches away from re-routing to an ISP LAN to make a reservation. Specifically, in March traffic is redirected to a new IP gateway such that a connection to the *Internet can be immediately made*. No reservation is needed. Additionally, both March and Malik are directed to public telephone system. Calls to the system must be initiated via a telephone. Thus, both March and Malik are non-analogous art.

Additionally, any re-routing done by the prior art is not performed by the claimed structure, i.e., networking management system and edge router. March et al. teaches redirecting an incoming telephone call from a telephone line corresponding to a dialed phone number to a secondary telephone line, akin to a standard company telephone switchboard. Telephone switchboards have been used to route phone calls received on a main number to free telephone lines within a company, e.g., tech support lines. In the case of March et al., instead of the incoming call being routed to an internal telephone, it is routed to one of many Internet Gateways installed at the terminus of each telephone line. The routing is performed by a *telephone call routing system and not by a network management system*.

The Examiner is incorrect in assuming that an edge router is inherent to the March et al. reference as the routing occurs external of the computer network and not between computer networks. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner asserted that the edge router is interpreted as any router that sits on the edge of the network. Applicant submits that this interpretation is overbroad and contrary to its meaning in the art. One of ordinary skill in the art, reviewing the specification and the claims, would not interpret the term "edge router to be any router that sits on the edge of a network." Rather, an edge router is accepted to mean "...a device that routes data packets between one or more local area networks (LANs) and an asynchronous transfer

mode (ATM) backbone network...” (Definition provided by Whatis.com). A Cisco 7600 series edge router is an example of a typical edge router as known in the art.

Specifically, Claim 1 recites that a contract unit having a *network management system*, said contract unit receiving an Internet access request for a current time period from a user and judging whether said user reserved the current time period, by a prior reservation request, stored in said reservation table, wherein if it is judged that said Internet access request is not permitted, the contract unit automatically directs said *network management system to reroute the user to an ISP LAN by issuing commands to an edge router that limit user access to said ISP LAN only, such that a reservation request can be made by the user via a web server on said ISP LAN*. Claims 10 and 19 recite similar claim language, Claim 10 is a method claim and Claim 19 recites a judging unit.

Lastly, the inherent “router” in March does not “limit user access to said ISP LAN only”, as specifically recited in the claim. The changing between different IP gateways solely occurs to balance the load between all of the IP gateways. However, each IP gateway allows access to the same Internet. Access is not restricted to a specific portion of a network. See March Figure 1. In stark contrast, in the claimed invention, the network management system reroutes the user to an ISP LAN by issuing commands to an **edge router that limit user access to said ISP LAN only**.

Therefore, for all of the above reasons, Malik and March et al. taken alone or in any proper combination do not disclose or suggest the claimed matter as recited by independent Claims 1, 10 and 19. Therefore, for at least the reasons presented above, Claims 1, 10 and 19 are believed patentably distinct over the cited prior art references.

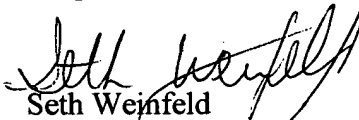
Claims 2-9, 11-18 and 20 are patentably distinct from Malik and March et al. based upon their dependency, whether directly or indirectly from Claims 1, 10 and 19, respectively.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-20, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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